Vol. VI. Numb. 53

THE OBSERVATOR.

The Observator *vindicated from the Calumnies of the* Review. *Of the Dutchess of* Anjou's *being deliver'd of a Son: Remarks thereon. The Pope always sided with the* French *King, against the House of* Austria. *The Emperor's Affairs consider'd. The* Rehearser *examin'd.*

From Saturday, August 30. to Wednesday, September 3. 1707.

Obs. ROger, we have lost good Part of our Subject, in not taking *Thoulon*; I thought that would have held us out some time longer.

Country-m. Never fear Subject, Master, you have got two Knights of the Goose-Quill, that will find you Employment. Mr. *Review* is very pungent upon you.

Obs. What does he say, *Roger?* Nothing of Argument, I dare engage before-hand.

Country-m. 'Tis a strange Thing, how he's improv'd in Leasing-making, since he went to leven the *North Britains!* He had a good Faculty at it before he went, but he mends wonderfully upon our Hands, and improves to a Miracle. He says, Master, that you bully'd King *William*, you bully'd the *Union*, and you bully'd the Government.

Obs. As how, *Roger?* I was never represented as a Bully before.

Country-m. You know he has a Priviledge to say what he pleases, and give no Reason for it.

Obs. But I hope, *Roger*, a Body may vindicate one's self against Calumny; I must own, I may spend my Time much better, and therefore I shall be as short as may be. I bully'd King *William*, in venturing my Life to bring King *William* to the Crown, and afterwards to preserve it on his Head. How I bully'd the *Union*, I can't tell: I have said very little on the Subject of the *Union*; but I have a great deal to say, as soon as he, or the Persons that employ him, shall think fit to justify his Position, That *by the Union we lost our Constitution*; which, I do think, (however acceptable that Notion may be to some) is the highest Affront has been, or can be, given the *Union*.

Country-m. But, Master, wherein have you bully'd the Government?

Obs. That's plain enough, *Roger*; in standing Tryal at Law against the Government. Now, you know he is a Person that understands abundance of GOOD LAW, and that made him plead guilty to an Indictment, and stand in the Pillory: He thought all Mankind oblig'd to follow his wise Example; and that I ought to have pleaded guilty, and thereby, as he did, acknowledg'd my self to be the very same *malicious, seditious,* and *scandalous* Person mention'd in the Information. But I knew better Things, and that the Law of *England* will stand by him that stands by it; that Justice was to be had in our Courts, without Distinction or Respect of Persons, and I found it so. And now, pray, is a Struggle for *English* Liberty and Self-Defence, a bullying of the Government?

Country-m. Master, I think this Mr. Equivalent, is the greatest Bully of all the Scriblers. How long has he been bullying the King of *Sweden*, and the Protestants of *Hungary?* He has bully'd and bely'd the greatest Judge and Lawyer that *England* has bred for these hundred Years last past; and which, perhaps won't be equall'd in another Century. He has bully'd a noble Peer, after so barbarous and nasty a Manner, that had he not been so very much beneath the Cognisance of that August Assembly, he had before now receiv'd a just Reward for his Scandal. — But this Discourse, tho' necessary, is not so profitable, and therefore let us call another Cause.

Obs. What Cause you will, *Roger*.

Country-m. The last Post brings us News, that the Queen of *Spain*, *i. e.* the Dutchess of *Anjou*, is brought to Bed of a Son, before his Father is in Possession of his Kingdom. But I commend 'em for being so careful, as to have so much Company at the Birth; our Queen *James* did not so, the Company that should have been at her Labour, were absent when she was brought to Bed.

Obs. As to King *James*'s Queen, that signifies nothing to us, whether her Child was legitimate or not. We have settl'd our Succession according to the Constitution and Custom of *England*. But here may be a Cheat, *Roger*; a *Judith Wilks* and a Warming-Pan; for tho' the Spectators were numerous, you must consider who they were. Cardinal *Portocarrero* is the chief Person mention'd; and he that could contrive and forge a Will, and so rob the House of *Austria* of its Right; may have Ways and Means to paum a Bastard on the *Spaniards*, to continue the Succession in the House of *Bourbon*.

And here, *Roger*, is another Testimony that the Pope, ever since the Rupture betwixt the Emperor and the *French* King, has been in the Interest of *France*; since he has appointed this very Cardinal *Portocarrero*, the most base and perfidious of Mankind, who forg'd a Will for the late King of *Spain*, whereby the Kingdom was given from the House of *Austria*, to be his Nuncio: This is no mean Instance of his partial Dealings with the Emperor.

The Emperor's Affairs have not gone so well in *Germany* this Campaign, as could have been wish'd; but upon casting up the Account, *France* will not find it self so wonderful a Gainer, as its Partizans boast of. If the Reduction

on of *Naples* be not an Equivalent for the Battel of *Almanza* at preſent, it may prove ſo in time: *Sicily* will follow in Courſe, and the *French* are very apprehenſive of it; and their great Concern for the Loſs of *Naples*, plainly ſhows that they have other Apprehenſions of the Importance of that Place to the Poſſeſſor, than they had ſome Months ago; and may cauſe 'em to ſuſpect the Fidelity of the *Spaniards* to the Duke *D' Anjou*. Forc'd Obedience is no Obedience at all: It only keeps a People quiet, 'till they have an Opportunity to rebel: And *France* will find more of the *Spaniards* throw of the Maſk, when they have a fair Opportunity of ſhowing their Faces.

Had the Expedition in *Provence* ſucceeded, the Emperor's Affairs would have been much mended; but as it is, it has ſo harras'd the *French* Troops, and put the *French* King to ſuch vaſt Expence, that the Expedition has been worth the While. It is not over yet; let the *French* Detachments look our ſharp, I don't know but they may be in much Danger. Beſides, we don't yet know what Damage they have done to the Town and the Ships in the Harbour; tho' the *French* very modeſtly tell us, that they have not deſtroy'd above five or ſix Houſes. But could the Tars once have come to work, they would have made it a glorious Expedition.

Country-m. Well, now, Maſter, I muſt beg you to conſider Mr. *Rehearſal* a little; he's grown as impudent as ever.

Obſ. He wrote one or two Papers to the Purpoſe about Predeſtination; but I thought he could not hold it long: He would return to his old Wont.

Country-m. He's like my brindl'd Cow; 'tis but ſeldom ſhe gives a good Pail of Milk, and then ſhe kicks it down with her Foot, like a ſcurvy Carrion as ſhe is.

Obſ. What does he ſay now?

Country-m. He ſays, *there is no Act of* Tolleration *now in* England.

Obſ. Her Majeſty has declar'd to all her People, that ſhe will *inviolably* maintain the Act of TOLLERATION. What, did ſhe promiſe her People to maintain a Thing in being, that never had a Being? This Prieſt is very ſawcy in giving even Majeſty it ſelf the Lie. But what does he ſay to prove it? How does he make it out? He is not like the *Review*; he will give us ſome Arguments, tho' they are falſe, falacious, and deſigning to impoſe on the common People.

Country-m. Why, he ſays, *that Act which is commonly call'd ſo, is to free the Diſſenters from ſome legal Penalties, which lay upon them: But there is not a Word of Tolleration in the Act.*

Obſ. This is all Sophiſm and Fallacy. Not a Word of *Tolleration* in the Act! when the Intent and Meaning of the Act, was to give Liberty of Conſcience to Proteſtant Diſſenters, and to allow them the free Exerciſe of their Religion, as is expreſs'd in the Act: And in Security of the ſame, the ſame Act inflicts a Penalty of twenty Pounds on ſuch as ſhall diſturb them in any of their Religious Aſſemblies. If this be not a Tolleration to all Intents and Purpoſes, I know not what to make of it. *Roger*, he's catching High-Church Gulls.

Country-m. He ſays, *this is no more a Tolleration to them,* (the Diſſenters) *than I excuſing my Boy a Whipping, would be a Tolleration to him to commit the ſame Fault again.*

Obſ. Was there ever ſuch barbarous horrid Stuff brought for Arguments? How can this Inſtance be apply'd to the Diſſenters Tolleration? But 'tis a Simile will paſs glib with High-Church for Argument, or Reaſon, or any Thing, becauſe it talks of *Whipping*; the black Executioners of High-Church, love *whipping* dearly. The beſt Man that ever wore a Parſon's Gown, the Reverend and Learned Mr. *Samuel Johnſon*, they *whipp'd* at the Cart's Arſe from *Newgate* to *Tyburn*: Inhuman Brutes! And 'tis the *Whipping* Power they want again. This is the Meaning of the *Rehearſer*, and nothing elſe.

Country-m. He's an arch Wag at Compariſons: He compares the Diſſenters to a vicious Horſe he has, who, before he fell to his Share, had broke two or three Riders Necks, (I hope they were tacking Prieſts) becauſe they gave him too looſe a Rein.

Obſ. Is his a Sorrel Nag? If ſo, there is ſome Hopes of his breaking his Neck, like ſome of his Brethren.

Country-m. He does not mention the Colour, but he has brought him under due Management, and the *vicious* Horſe is become as *vertuous* as his Rider.

Obſ. Well, and what Inference does he make from hence?

Country-m. Why, that the Diſſenters muſt be rod with a ſtreight Rein.

Obſ. Here are three Things obſervable.

1. The Diſſenters muſt be rod, *i. e.* as much as to ſay, that they are Beaſts of Burden.

2. They are to be rod with a ſtreight Rein, with a Bit and a Curb.

3. That *Leſley* is to ride 'em, for he bids faireſt for the Office; becauſe he has rode down a vicious Horſe, he's the moſt likely to ride down the vicious Diſſenters.

So that, *Roger*, here's a new High-Church Employment, and a new High-Church Officer ſprung up like a Muſhrome. High-Church Rider of the Diſſenters!

The Maſter that teaches to ride the Great Horſe, has not half the Employment that *Leſley* may rationally expect. But I would adviſe him not to ride 'em too furiouſly at firſt, or to wear too long Spurs; for they hate to be Prieſt-rid, and may ſerve him in the ſtead of *Sorrel*. But, *Roger*, I grow indiſpos'd, and muſt go to Bed.

Country-m. I wiſh you a good Repoſe with all my Spirit.

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